

MARICOPA COUNTY TRAIL COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 19, 2001

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- 1) **The meeting was called to order at 1:15 P.M. by Supervisor Don Stapley.**
- 2) **Attendance roll call taken by Patti Suman.** A quorum was present.

**Members Present**

Laurel Arndt  
Jerry Aster  
James Burke  
Jim Duncan  
Bruce Ellison  
Carol Erwin  
Fred Pfiefer  
Supervisor Don Stapley (representing Supervisors Brock and Kunasek)

**Members Absent**

Representative Carolyn Allen  
Supervisor Fulton Brock  
Supervisor Andrew Kunasek  
Bill Lanford  
Felipe Zubia

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Tom Buick  
Mike Ellegood  
Lynn Favour (representing Joy Rich)  
William Scalzo

- 3) **Approval of the minutes from September 19, 2001.**

Commissioner Erwin made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Aster.

***Passed unanimously.***

- 4) **Update on Sun Circle Bridge over I-10 in Guadalupe - Stacey Niles, Grant Administrator, Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department**

Ms. Niles stated that on November 27, 2001 the Guadalupe Town Council met and discussed the trail issue. They agreed to work with the Parks Department to establish an easement for the trail. As a result of this, staff from the Parks Department and ADOT will hold a meeting the first week in January 2002 to begin work on the project.

- 5) **Status of Flood Control Projects Coincident to Regional Trails Network - Dennis Holcomb, Landscape Architect, Flood Control District, Maricopa County**

Mr. Holcomb pointed out areas within the proposed Trail System, in which the Flood Control District holds title or some interest. These areas include:

- Agua Fria River – West Valley Recreational Corridor, which would link Lake Pleasant Regional Park to Estrella Mountain Regional Park. The U S Army Corps of Engineers is already preparing habitat restoration plans for the lower reach of the Agua Fria.
- New River and the New River Dam which contains over 5000 acres of largely undeveloped land. The District is recommending the purchase of right-of-way for access along the New River.
- McMicken Dam/McMicken Corridor (approximately 23 miles long) has been identified as a potential major link in connecting the White Tank Regional Park, Agua Fria River, and Lake Pleasant Regional Park.
- City of Surprise proposed Ground Water Recharge and Community Park Concept

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- Cave Butte Dam and Upper Cave Creek, which extend from the Cave Butte Dam northward to the Carefree Highway. The City of Phoenix is currently studying this area to see how the property will be used and developed for recreation and open space purposes.
- Adobe Dam is located south of the Central Arizona Project (CAP) on Skunk Creek. Presently, this is not in the proposed Trail System but is in close proximity and supports the north valley as part of a large-scale recreational complex. Mr. Scalzo stated that the Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department has a contract to operate the Adobe Dam Recreation Area.
- El Rio (a segment of the Gila River) which extends west from the confluence of the Agua Fria River westward to its intersection with State Route 85. This is a unique area because of the large amount of water that flows through the river year round.
- BIC Lake Southern Outfall, which is operated by the Buckeye Irrigation District. The Flood Control District has worked with the cities of Goodyear, Avondale, Buckeye, and Buckeye Irrigation District, U S Army Corps of Engineers and the private sector to develop a vision concept for this stretch of the river. The concept includes habitat restoration, aesthetic enhancement, flood control, development of water feature amenities, commercial facilities, parks, trails and day use recreation facilities.
- East Maricopa Floodway is a 26-mile long stretch of Flood Control channel that extends from the County line near the San Tan Mountains Regional Park, northward to beyond the Superstition Freeway. Trails and golf course facilities currently exist in portions of the area.
- Chandler Heights where the Flood Control District is currently developing plans for a habitat restoration mitigation site located south of the Chandler Heights Road intersection.
- Buckhorn Mesa Flood Retarding Structure. This facility runs parallel to the CAP for several miles and then extends eastward toward and into the Userly Mountain Recreation Area.
- Spook Hill Area Drainage Master Plan Study, which explores the possibility of trail usage in connection with Flood Control facilities.
- The Flood Control District is working with the cities of Phoenix and Tempe on several projects located within the Salt River immediately above and below Tempe Town Lake.

Commissioner Ellegood advised the Commission that the U S Army Corps of Engineers recently authorized a feasibility study to determine the possibility of restoration of the entire 47 miles of the Agua Fria River. He also stated that Flood Control has applied for (from the Corps of Engineers) a River Restoration Grant to provide restoration for portions of the New River in the Peoria area.

**6) Progress Report on Development and Implementation of the Trails System - Dennis Holcomb, Reed Kempton, Maricopa County Department of Transportation, Dave Konopka, Maricopa County Parks Department.**

Mr. Kempton, part of the multi-department team (including Dennis Holcomb, Dave Konopka, Matt Holm, Maricopa County Planning & Development and Julie Romig, Maricopa County Department of Transportation) stated, that the Pilot Area of the Project extends from the White Tank Mountain Regional Park to Lake Pleasant Regional Park to Cave Creek Recreation Area to Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. The goal of the project is to connect County Parks with the Regional Trail System.

Mr. Kempton stressed the importance of obtaining sufficient width of right-of-way in development of the trail.

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The project team is using the MAG West Valley Multi-Modal Transportation Corridor Study Master Plan as a guide.

Several evaluation parameters must be considered in development of the Trail System. These include:

- Natural and Cultural Features
  - 100-year Floodplains
  - Threatened and endangered species
  - Prehistoric and historic artifacts
- Human Impact
  - Mines
  - Pollutants
- Land Use
  - Owner and jurisdiction
  - Existing and planned use
- Trail Transportation
  - Trailhead location
  - Junctions with other trails
  - Connections to schools, parks, and residential areas
  - Arterial and freeway crossings

Mr. Konopka spoke to the Commission about trail guidelines that vary in accordance with the type of trail. Included in these guidelines are:

- Primary Trail – main pathway that serves high numbers of people. It is typically hard surfaced (paved), but may be soft surface (unpaved) in undeveloped areas.
- Secondary Trail – a pathway generally parallel to the primary trail. It is soft surface in each of the landscape management zones.
- Corridor Width (minimum of 28 feet)
- Grade – whenever possible, grades should be less than 5%. Grades greater than 5% require landings to meet ADA specifications.

Mr. Kempton stated that on November 27, 2001, Stacey Niles of the Parks Department, Tim Oliver, Maricopa County Department of Transportation and Joe Winfield of the National Park Service met to discuss how the National Park Service might assist the Trail Project Team. Mr. Winfield felt the National Park Service could assist the County in developing the implementation options along with the steps required to make the Trail System a reality.

Mr. Kempton stated that public meetings are being scheduled for January and March 2002. He proposed a workshop be held in February with members of the Trail Commission and anyone Commission members feel should be invited to attend. This workshop would give the Project Team guidance on selecting the final recommendation for the Trail System in the proposed pilot area.

Mr. Holcomb then spoke to the Commission about what Flood Control will be doing to assist the Trail Pilot Project Team. This includes a study of the McMicken Dam and Agua Fria River Corridor for identifying the potential requirements for locating the Trail within the District's property. The study will be looking at the entire corridor from White Tank Mountain Regional Park to Lake Pleasant Regional Park. Flood Control will be working closely with MCDOT, Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development, the cities of Surprise and Peoria and MAG. He anticipates the study will be completed in March.

Supervisor Stapley advised all present that the Pilot Project will be presented for approval at the March Trail Commission meeting. It is important for all members to attend the March meeting.

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**7) Name the Trail - Committee Update - Commissioner Burke**

Commissioner Burke stated that the Name the Trail Subcommittee met since the last Trail Commission meeting to review the five names that have been submitted to name the trail. County staff was asked to prepare some brochures and post the information on various web sites. He then called on Rand Hubbell, Maricopa County Parks Department to address the Commission.

Mr. Hubbell presented Commission members with a draft brochure and draft poster for naming the Trail. He feels these could be placed at County Park kiosks, in the County libraries, at public meetings, and various retail outlets in order for citizens to participate in naming the trail. He suggests a six-week campaign so results would be available at the next Trail Commission meeting.

Commissioner Burke thanked the members of the subcommittee for their participation and also thanked Mr. Hubbell for putting together the brochure and poster.

**8) Set Commission Meeting Dates for 2002**

A motion to accept the proposed 2002 meeting dates was made by Commissioner Arndt. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion.

***Passed unanimously.***

Maricopa County Trail Commission meeting dates for 2002 are listed below:

- Wednesday, March 27, 2002
- Wednesday, June 19, 2002
- Wednesday, September 18, 2002
- Wednesday, December 18, 2002

**9) Call to the Commission**

None

**10) Call to the Public**

- Janie Gomez-Terry spoke on behalf of the Rio Verde Horsemen's Association.
- Supervisor Stapley advised the Commission that as of January 2002, he will become a member of the Commission working with Supervisor Kunasek.

**11) Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:20.